

CA20N
NR
-C52

Cochrane District Fisheries Plan



Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Government
Publications



DRAFT

Good angling for all Managing a fisheries resource

CA20N
NR
-C52



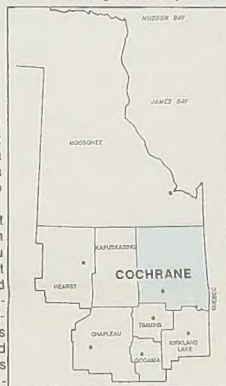
Fisheries management probably isn't on your mind much when you're angling for walleye or northern pike.

You're baiting your hook, enjoying the day — maybe even looking forward to a great fish fry. At those times, excellent fishing is just a way to relax and enjoy one of the area's great forms of outdoor recreation.

But excellent local fishing can't be taken for granted. Popular fish species like walleye are already in danger of being overfished in some waters.

Fishing can also be more than a sport. In many situations, a strong fishery will support local businesses. For baitfish operators and tourist outfitters, fishing is a livelihood — and a way to contribute to the local economy.

No matter what your interest in fishing, you should know that continued good angling in Cochrane District depends on sound fisheries management.



That is why the Ministry of Natural Resources needs your help. We are developing a District Fisheries Management Plan to guide fisheries management into the year 2000.

To make sure the plan reflects the real needs of Cochrane District we need your interest, input and ideas.

We have published this tabloid to keep you informed and involved. Please review it and then give us your comments. Only with your participation can we ensure that our plans reflect your needs, and the needs of this great natural resource. So read on!

Planning for the Year 2000

The Cochrane District Fisheries Management Plan is actually a blueprint for building stronger local fishing opportunities.

It's a way to find solutions to some of our current fishery problems. And it's a chance to prevent other and possibly more serious problems from surfacing in the future. The plan looks at both long-term management (to the year 2000) and short-term action needed over the next five years.

Many different factors influence the quality of fishing in an area like Cochrane. Conversely, the way we manage a fishery can affect other resources, like forestry, wildlife, cottaging and mining.

The relationships among all of the Cochrane area resources were examined in the Cochrane District Land Use Guidelines in 1983. Based on the

guidelines, management plans are being developed for each resource. The fisheries management plan is part of the process.

Before you can plan for the future, you must know exactly what you are dealing with today. To ensure MNR had information it needed, a detailed background report was prepared on district fisheries in 1985.

This report was called Background Information, Cochrane District Fisheries Management Plan. It provided MNR staff with an inventory of the resource. Preparing the report was only a first step; the next step involved you — the fisheries users.

As fishing enthusiasts, you are essential contributors in the creation of a workable, effective fisheries management plan for Cochrane District.

The first formal chance for public discussion came at open houses held in May of 1988. A summary of the Background Information and Optional Management Strategies report was distributed for public review.

A questionnaire was included with the report to encourage response. The comments and ideas from both the questionnaires and open houses were considered in the writing of this draft fisheries management plan.

This tabloid represents the final formal step in the public review process and a chance for you to influence fisheries planning for the next five years from 1989-1993. The information presented here is the product of your comments and MNR's current

Continued next page

Where are we going?

Optimizing the angling experience

The goal of Cochrane District Fisheries Management Plan is to optimize the quality of the local angling experience.

To meet that goal, the strategies in this draft plan have been developed based on recommendations of the Cochrane District Land Use Guidelines (DLUG) and public input. In some cases however, the targets of the DLUG will be amended to reflect new information and knowledge. Commercial food fishing will not be a target of the district's fishery program.

High contaminant levels in the larger marketable fish and competition with the sport anglers have made this objective unrealistic. However, commercial baitfish operations will continue to be managed to meet the projected demand of 21,600 dozen baitfish by the year 2000.

The annual sport fish harvest target in the District Land Use Guidelines of 439,700 kilograms per year has been refined to 59,900 kilograms per year. This new target is based on projected district demand to the year 2000 whereas the target in the District Land Use Guidelines was estimated from the total lake area in the district.

Furthermore, this new target is partitioned into individual species. The demand for walleye is expected to be 32,100 kilograms per year, 3,100 kilograms per year for trout, and 24,700 kilograms per year for other species (northern pike, lake whitefish, yellow perch) by the year 2000.

So our goals and targets have been set, but how do we get there?

To meet our sport fishing objectives, the district's fisheries programs will focus on a variety of strategies. Regulations to control harvest may be implemented on lakes and rivers which are experiencing heavy fishing pressure and may be in danger of serious over-exploitation.

We will be encouraging the use of underutilized species such as northern pike, lake whitefish and yellow perch. The quality of fishing for trout and smallmouth bass will be improved through the assessment of our stocking programs.



Effective fisheries management planning today will provide many angling opportunities for future generations.

We can ensure better angler returns of hatchery fish by stocking only the best lakes.

Cochrane District will continue to identify and stock new lakes through adult walleye transfers as well as assessing past introductions.

Since many of the suitable lakes have now been identified and stocked, our efforts will also have to be directed at other ways for improving walleye fishing such as spawning habitat enhancement projects.

Enforcement is a valuable component of our fisheries management program. Our conservation officers will continue to work to protect fish habitat and populations by conducting regular inspections and patrols.

To preserve fragile populations they will patrol areas where illegal fishing repeatedly occurs. The officers will also be involved in various management programs such as stocking, angler surveys and assessment work as well as providing the public with information regarding our management programs and regulations.

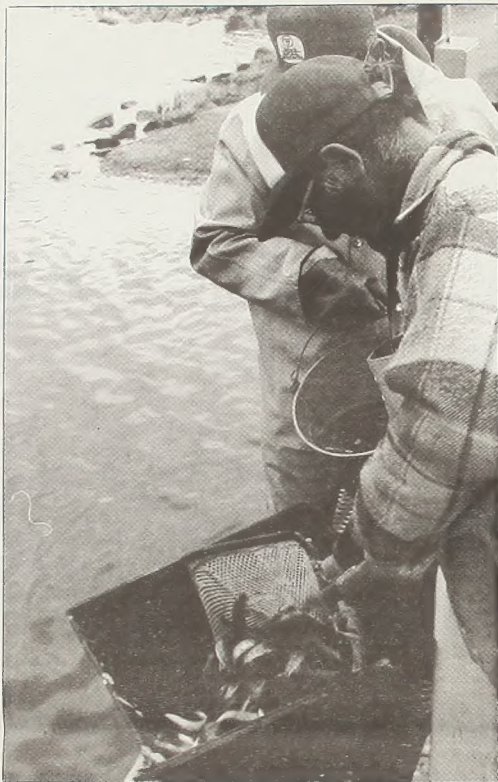
You, the public can support our enforcement program by reporting known poaching activities.

The building and location of access roads will also be addressed. Fisheries management strategies will be considered during the development of the district's road strategy through recommendations for the alignment of new roads to lakes with the aim of increasing angling opportunities while at the same time recognizing the need to ensure the continued remote nature of selected tourism lakes.

Valuable information gathered through assessment and angler surveys will aid us in determining management techniques best suited to improve the fishery.

Another strategy involves improving fish habitat by working cooperatively with water control agencies and by identifying and protecting important spawning and nursery areas.

In recent years, local residents have contributed to fisheries management through the Community Fisheries Involvement Program. It is anticipated these contributions will continue with future projects directed through the plan.



A number of lakes will continue to be stocked to provide "put, grow and take" trout fisheries.

1988 open houses

What you told us

Your submission and comments at the open houses held in May 1988 were important to the writing of the draft fisheries management plan.

Most of those who commented agreed with the concerns and possible solutions identified by MNR in its summary background information report.

Here are the highlights:

- The public accepted the possible requirement for regulation changes in specific areas to reduce over-harvesting. Acceptable regulation changes are shortening of seasons, sanctuaries, pulse-fishing

and slot limits. Generally reductions in creel limits are not acceptable.

- Promotion and increased fishing opportunities for species other than walleye i.e. northern pike, lake whitefish, brook trout, rainbow trout, etc. was supported.

- Increased walleye fishing opportunities through adult transfers and/or rehabilitation of degraded areas received favorable response.

- Improvement of roads to lakes that are presently accessed and the creation of new access roads to lakes not presently accessed was accepted as a possible strategy.

Planning for the Year 2000

Continued from the cover

knowledge about the fishery. It outlines methods of improving the fishery, an is an open invitation for you to participate.

Once your comments are received

a final plan will be prepared. It will be updated annually, and you will be asked to comment should any major changes be necessary. The plan will be reviewed and revised at the end of 1993 and your comments will be vital to the revision process.

Answering some questions

Describe the district's landscape and weather

Cochrane's topography is dominated by a gently rolling plain known as the Northern Clay Belt. Soils are shallow, poorly drained clays often covered by peat. The climate is characterized by long cold winters, cool summers and a relatively short growing season.

How much of Cochrane District is made up of rivers and lakes?

The total water area is estimated to be 212,000 hectares or about 9 percent of the total district area. Of the 10,427 lakes, the majority are less than 10 hectares in size.

Lake Abitibi is the exception accounting for more than one-third of the water area in the district.

There are two types of lakes; coolwater and coldwater lakes. The coldwater lakes usually located along ridges are small, deep and possess characteristics appropriate for stocking trout. The more productive and widely dispersed coolwater lakes are shallow, vary in size and are characterized by species such as walleye, northern pike and yellow perch.

The vast majority of the district's waters are coolwater lakes and rivers (97%) with coldwater rivers and lakes making up the remainder (3%).

Is there a problem for fisheries in Cochrane District?

It depends on which lakes and species you're talking about. Although the potential production of

walleye far exceeds current and anticipated demands, many walleye lakes are known to be over-fished.

These lakes are located on major access routes such as the Detour Lake Mine Road (Highway 652). A generally short growing season and poor nutrient levels in lakes result in slow growth and late maturation of fish.

Therefore, it only takes a moderate level of fishing pressure to significantly reduce the numbers of breeding fish. Recovery time can take from 8 to 10 years but only in the absence or control of fishing pressure.

Is there any extra pressure on district fisheries apart from fishing?

Yes, habitat degradation occurs primarily in areas of resource utilization and extraction activities. It may occur as a result of removal of shoreline vegetation, water level fluctuations or road crossings over streams.

These activities can harm fisheries habitat by siltation of critical spawning sites or disruption of spawning through water level drawdowns.

How can I help?

A more informed public taking an active role in fisheries management can lead to an increase in fish production. Not only will you gain knowledge and appreciation of the problems facing fisheries managers, but you can make real and meaningful contributions to the effective management of the fisheries resource.

We need your support for our management programs to work. Your comments and suggestions are a vital component in the development of this plan.



Underutilized species such as northern pike will be promoted to effectively balance the harvest.

The next five years

The above initiatives form MNR's primary strategies for fishery management to the year 2000. They give you a broad understanding of the direction fisheries management will take.

Not all concerns can be addressed in the short-term. Costs and normal manpower limitations mean that priorities must be set. On the next page you will find the specific activities planned for the next five years along with a centrolid map outlining where these activities will take place.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

After reading the material in this tabloid, consider how closely the plan reflects your interests and your understanding of fisheries issues in Cochrane District.

Send your comments to:

D. A. Stillar
Acting District Manager
Ministry of Natural Resources
2 Third Avenue
P.O. Box 730
Cochrane, Ontario
P0L 1C0
(705) 272-4365



Quality fish habitat will be maintained by enforcing existing fish habitat protection legislation and through cooperative management practices with resource extraction users.

Fisheries management implementation schedule —1989-93

ISSUES/PROBLEMS ADDRESSED

*Overharvesting of walleye
in certain lakes*



The fisheries management plan will be integrated with other plans such as those for provincial parks and recreational areas.

STRATEGY

- * implement regulation changes to maintain walleye harvests at sustainable yields
- * promote catch and release fishery
- * promote fishing for underharvested species
- * increase fishing opportunities for salmonids
- * improve fishing opportunities for smallmouth bass
- * promote development of diverse fishing opportunities
- * create new walleye fishing opportunities
- * minimize illegal harvest of walleye
- * optimize location of access roads
- * monitor and assess selected walleye lakes
- * increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the District's baitfish industry

TACTICS

- * identify congregation areas and implement sanctuaries at these locations
- * evaluate pulse fishing (i.e. seasons with periodic openings and closings) as an alternative to sanctuaries.
- * maintain slot length limits
- * promote live release philosophy at annual fishery seminars
- * introduce anglers to various methods for catching lake whitefish, yellow perch, northern pike, etc.
- * promote recipe booklet
- * identify underproducing stocked lakes
- * increase stocking rates on best lakes
- * introduce crustaceans as potential food source
- * have year-round open seasons for selected lake trout, splake and brook trout lakes
- * assess past stocking programs
- * increase stocking rates on best lakes
- * manage for trophy pike fisheries on selected lakes through the implementation of regulations
- * identify and stock suitable lakes through adult walleye transfers
- * create critical fish habitat (spawning beds)
- * directed enforcement
- * educate public at seminars and educational institutions
- * ensure fisheries input into the District's road strategy plan
- * assess success of new introductions
- * conduct creel survey and/or assessments
- * prepare a separate management plan for Lake Abitibi
- * critically review baitfish operations
- * conduct a workshop stressing new aquaculture techniques

LOCATION PRIORITIES

- * Little Abitibi River, Pierre Lake, Montreuil Lake, Harris Lake, Thorming River, Williston Lake, Sturgeon Falls, Mattagami River
- * Pierre Lake, Montreuil Lake, Harris Lake
- * George Lake, Tweed Lake, Upper Kesagami Lake
- * Cochrane, Iroquois Falls, Smooth Rock Falls (1 seminar per community per year), Game and Fish Clubs
- * as above and videos available at District office
- * as above and copies available at District office
- * all stocked lakes (37), 10 lakes per year minimum
- * dependent on results of assessment
- * Commando Lake, Park Lake (Greenwater Provincial Park) others dependent on results of assessment
- * all stocked, road accessible lakes
- * Silver Queen Lake, Mary Lake, Poole's Lake, Fletcher Lake
- * dependent on results of assessment
- * Kesagami Lake, Edgar Lake (both lakes in Kesagami Provincial Park)
- * Wooley Lake, Today Lake (additional lakes to be identified)
- * Wooley Lake (additional lakes to be identified)
- * Little Abitibi Provincial Park, Little Abitibi Lake, Lake Abitibi, Floodwood River, selected fly-in lakes
- * Cochrane, Smooth Rock Falls, Iroquois Falls (1 seminar per community per year), game and fish clubs
- * on-going with input provided as planning for new roads is initiated, Audrey Lake Road (Road 60 North)
- * Michel Lake, Mistango Lake, Laidlaw Lake, Rawcourt Lake, Wooley Lake, Today Lake
- * Pierre Lake, Montreuil Lake, Harris Lake, Lake Abitibi, George Lake, Upper Kesagami Lake, Tweed Lake, Lower Tweed Lake, Wakwayowkastic Lake, Kesagami Lake
- * Lake Abitibi
- * ongoing
- * District wide. All baitfish dealers and fishermen welcome to attend

Visitors

Fishing attracts many people to Cochrane District.



TABLE

Fisheries management implementation schedule —1989-93

ISSUES/PROBLEMS ADDRESSED

STRATEGY

TACTICS

LOCATION PRIORITIES

*Loss of fishing opportunities
due to habitat degradation*



Many of our remote northerly lakes will remain inaccessible by road.

* provide input to and monitor resource extraction activities

* ensure greater compliance with habitat guidelines

* carry out inventory surveys on those lakes and rivers which may be negatively impacted by timber activities or by other access development i.e. tourism or public access

* minimize effects of water fluctuations

* monitor contaminant levels

* increase public awareness

* ensure habitat management guidelines are followed when developing resource management plans and reviewing work permits
* develop field inspection process to carry out audits of areas of concern
* prepare and disseminate habitat guidelines to resource extraction oriented companies
* rehabilitate selected sites with companies cooperation and support
* conduct (x) lake inventory surveys
* conduct 5 stream and/or river inventory surveys
* review proposals for new water control structures
* liaise with water control agencies to minimize existing draw-downs
* identify critical lake sturgeon habitat i.e. spawning, migration and nursery areas through aquatic habitat surveys
* distribute "Guide to Eating Ontario Sportfish"
* collect samples of sport fish for contaminant analysis from all newly surveyed waters

* ongoing

* all timber and mining companies operating in the district

* ongoing

* dependent on input from timber management planning and requests from tourist operators

* Wacousta R., Bad R., Wakwayowkastic R., Kabika R., South Patten R.

* Coral Rapids, Sextant Rapids, Nine Mile Rapids, Long Sault Rapids, Yellow Falls, Grand Rapids, Neeland Rapids, Buskegau River, Flood's Landing

* Abitibi Canyon, Otter Rapids, Island Falls, Twin Falls, Smooth Rock Falls

* all locations previously mentioned for the Abitibi & Mattagami Rivers

* ongoing

* ongoing

* promote active participation in the Community Fisheries Involvement Program
* conduct educational programs in schools (Youth Fisheries Involvement Program)
* maintain an active District Fisheries Advisory Committee
* prepare a district fishing brochure to inform the public of the various fishing opportunities

* Wooley Lake - habitat improvement, additional lakes and projects to be identified on an ongoing basis
* when so requested

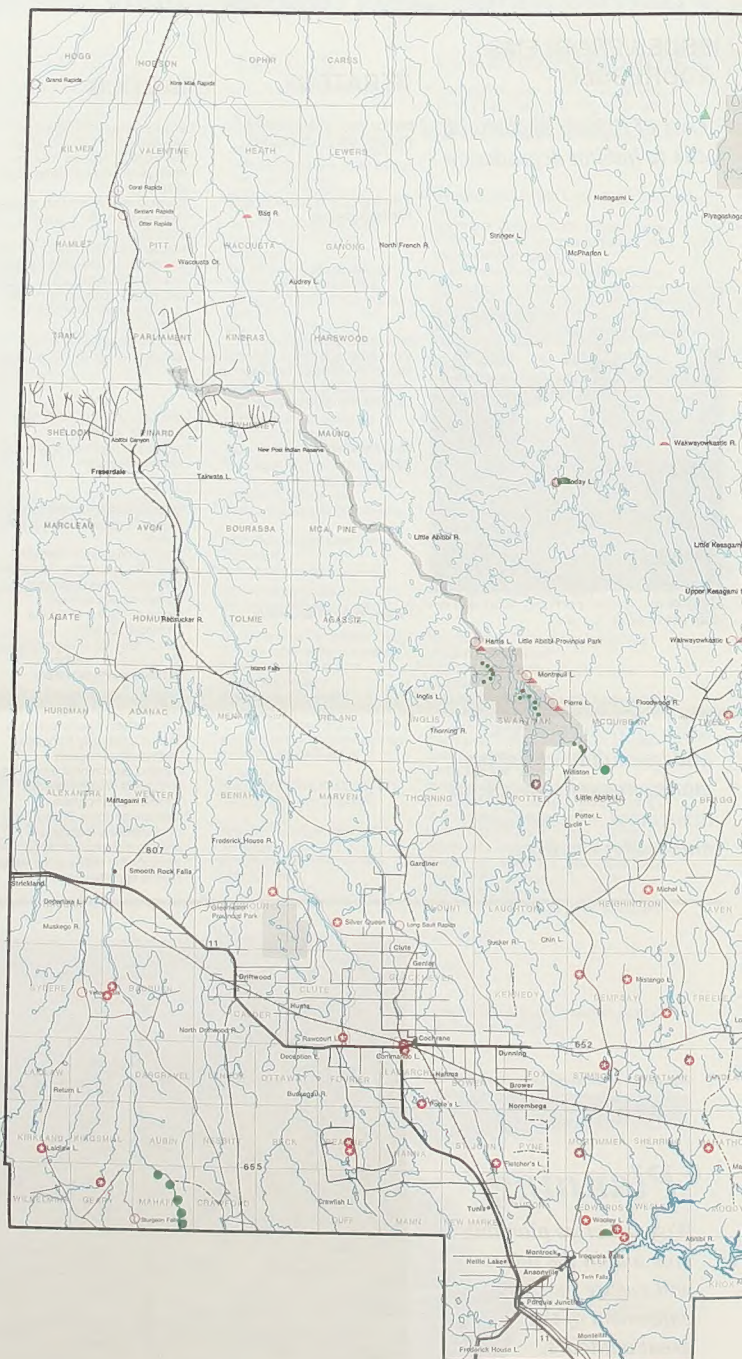
* 2 meetings per year

*Lack of awareness and
understanding of fishing
management i.e. problems
associated with stocking
and walleye culture*

Planning

Wise fisheries planning
now and in the future
will ensure our
enjoyment of the
great outdoors.





**DISTRICT DE
COCHRANE DISTRICT**

COCHRANE DISTRICT FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT PLAN

PLAN DE GESTION DES PECHE DE DISTRICT DE COCHRANE

**FIVE YEAR IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE:
1989-1993**

HORAIRE DE REALIZATION SUR CINQ ANS:
1989-1993

- Proposed Sanctuary/Reserve de Pêche Proposées
- Temporary Sanctuary/Reserve Temporaire
- Walleye Introduction/Introduction du Dorés
- ▲ Trophy Northern Pike Fishery/ Pêche aux Brochets Trophées
- ☆ Walleye Slot Limit/Fourchette de Tailles du Doré
- Assessment of Fish Introduction/ Evaluation des Introductions de Poissons
- Biological Survey/Étude Biologique
- ▲ Crab Census/Recensement du Panier de Pêche
- ▲ Habitat Inventory Survey/Inventaire de l'Habitat



Scale/Echelle 1:250,000



Activités de gestion des pêches de 1989 à 1993

SITES PRIORITAIRES

ACTIVITÉS

STRATÉGIES

QUESTIONS TRAITÉES

Diminution de la pêche en raison de la gradation de l'habitat

• Étudier et évaluer les activités d'extraction des ressources

• Assurer un meilleur respect des directives régissant l'habitat

• Assurer le respect des directives de gestion des habitats lors de l'élaboration des plans de gestion des ressources et de l'octroi des permis d'exploitation

• Dresser l'inventaire des lacs et des rivières pouvant être affectés par l'exploitation forestière de développement, par ex. tourisme et accès public.

• Minimiser les effets de la fluctuation du niveau d'eau



Bon nombre des lacs du Nord demeureront inaccessibles par route.

Mauvaise compréhension de la gestion des pêches c.-à-d. des problèmes associés à l'empoissonnement et à la culture du doré

• Sensibiliser davantage le public

• Surveiller le niveau des polluants

• Identifier l'habitat critique de basses du niveau d'eau pour évaluer la quantité de poissons gibier dans tous les nouveaux cours d'eau relevés pour évaluer la quantité de poissons gibier de "l'Ontario" de consommation du poisson

• Promotes continues

• Promotes continues

• Promotes continues

• Promotes continues

• Promotes continues

• Promotes continues

• Promotes continues

• Promotes continues

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

• Assurer la liaison avec les organismes de contrôle de l'eau

Planification
La planification avertit des pêches aujourd'hui et dans l'avenir
contribuera au succès des loisirs de plein air.



aujourd'hui assureront des pêches de qualité aux pêcheurs de demain.

[illegible]

Le tableau ci-dessous résume les résultats de la campagne de pêche de la nuit. Les données sont exprimées en tonnes métriques.

Zone	Nombre de pêcheurs	Nombre de bateaux	Quantité de poissons (tonnes)
Zone 1	10	10	100
Zone 2	20	20	200
Zone 3	30	30	300
Zone 4	40	40	400
Zone 5	50	50	500
Zone 6	60	60	600
Zone 7	70	70	700
Zone 8	80	80	800
Zone 9	90	90	900
Zone 10	100	100	1000

Les données ci-dessus sont des données fictives. Elles sont destinées à illustrer la structure du tableau.

Le projet de la police a été élaboré sur la base des recommandations contenues dans les directives de la Commission européenne (1997). Les données du district de Cologne ont été observées au public, tandis que les données des autres districts ont été traitées de manière anonyme. Les données ont été analysées à l'aide de logiciels statistiques tels que SPSS et R. Les résultats ont été présentés sous forme de graphiques et de tableaux.

Le plan des gestion des pêches du district de Cochran vise à optimiser la

Perspectives de l'avenir

[illegible]

Rencontres 1988

Nombre de lacs continueront d'être empoisonnés pour assurer la responsabilité de populations de ruites selon la méthode "ensemençement-
croissance-prise"

Planifier jusqu'en l'an 2000

[illegible]

Gestion des pêches du district de Cochrane

EBAUCHE



La gestion des pêches

Vous ne pensez probablement guère à la gestion des pêches lorsque vous pêchez le doré ou le brochet.

Vous mettiez l'appât, profitez de la journée et songez au délicieux poisson dont vous vous régalez. La pêche n'est alors qu'une détente qui vous permet de profiter d'une des nombreuses activités récréatives de la région.

Cependant, on ne peut tenir pour acquise l'excellente qualité de la pêche locale. Des espèces populaires de poisson comme le doré sont

déjà menacées de pêche excessive dans certains cours d'eau.

De plus, la pêche est plus

qu'un simple sport. C'est également une entreprise. Pour les

marchands de poisson d'appât et les exploitants de

centres touristiques, la

pêche est un gagne-pain

qui stimule l'économie locale.

Quel que soit votre

type de pêche, vous

savez que la qualité de

la pêche à la ligne

dans le district de Co-

chrane dépend

d'une saine ges-

tion.

C'est pour

cette raison que

le ministère des

Richesses

naturelles a

besoin de

votre aide. Nous élaborons présentement un plan

de gestion des pêches du district afin d'obtenir la

meilleure qualité possible du poisson dans le district de

Cochrane, nous devons connaître vos intérêts.

Le présent document vise à vous in-

former et à vous inciter à nous aider. Étudiez-

le et faites-nous part de vos observations.

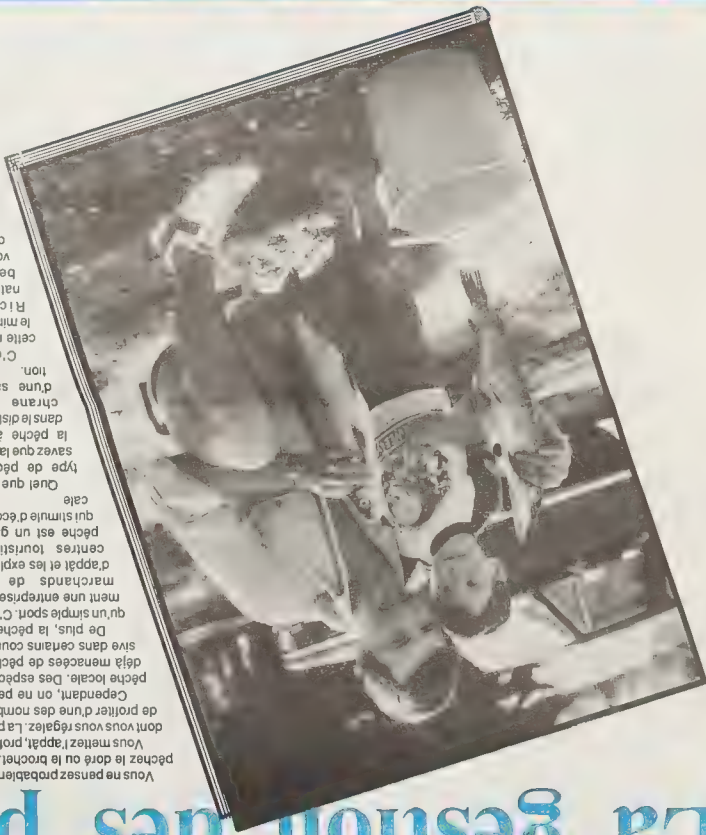
Votre participation est essentielle pour que

nos plans reflètent vos besoins et leur

compte des exigences de cette

importante ressource naturelle. Pour suivre

votre lecture!



Planifier jusqu'en l'an 2000

L'objectif du plan de gestion des pêches du district de Cochrane est essentiellement d'améliorer la gestion pour chaque ressource basée sur ces directives d'aménagement du territoire du district de Cochrane. On élaborera présentement des plans de gestion pour chaque ressource basée sur ces directives. Le plan de gestion des pêches fait partie de ce processus.

Toutefois, il faut bien connaître la situation actuelle avant de planifier l'avenir. Afin de disposer de tous les renseignements nécessaires, le MRN a demandé en 1985 l'élaboration d'un rapport détaillé sur les pêches de district.

Grâce à ce rapport, intitulé "Renseignements généraux, plan de gestion des pêches du district de Cochrane", le personnel du MRN a pu disposer d'un inventaire des ressources. La préparation du rapport n'était que la première étape du processus; nous avons ensuite fait appel à vous, les pêcheurs.

Le présent document est la dernière étape officielle du processus d'examen public. Il vous permet de donner votre avis sur la gestion des pêches de la région de Cochrane. Les observations et les idées recueillies ont été utilisées pour préparer la version provisoire du plan de gestion des pêches.

Le présent document est la dernière étape officielle du processus d'examen public. Il vous permet de donner votre avis sur la gestion des pêches de la région de Cochrane. Les observations et les idées recueillies ont été utilisées pour préparer la version provisoire du plan de gestion des pêches.

En tant qu'amateurs de pêche, votre contribution est essentielle à l'élaboration d'un plan de gestion des pêches à la fois efficace et réalisable. Les premières rencontres publiques ont eu lieu au début de l'été 1988. Les participants ont alors reçu un résumé des renseignements généraux et des statistiques de la participation au public. Les observations et les idées recueillies ont été utilisées pour préparer la version provisoire du plan de gestion des pêches.

Le présent document est la dernière étape officielle du processus d'examen public. Il vous permet de donner votre avis sur la gestion des pêches de la région de Cochrane. Les observations et les idées recueillies ont été utilisées pour préparer la version provisoire du plan de gestion des pêches.

District of Cochrane Fisheries Plan

Ministry of Natural Resources

DRAFT

Fisheries plan aims to enhance anglers' luck

The District Fisheries Management Plan has one goal: to develop strategies that enhance and improve angling opportunities in Cochrane District.

The plan is being developed on the basis of the 1983 District Land Use Guidelines. These guidelines reviewed the relationships between all Cochrane District resources and recommended that individual plans be prepared for each. The fisheries plan is part of that process.

But, to plan for the future, we must understand the present. We need to look at both current MNR management practices and the issues that will challenge the local fishery over the next decade and beyond.

In Cochrane District, fisheries problems can be grouped into two broad categories: overfishing and habitat damage or degradation.

Easily accessed walleye lakes are the district waters most likely to suffer overfishing.

Current management solutions to the overfishing problem include fish stocking programs for walleye, trout and splake, and the creation of periodic sanctuaries on Floodwood River and Commando Lake. Size and catch limits are also used to control the local harvest.

But changes in angler habits would also have an enormous impact on fishing quality in Cochrane District. Shifting some of the reliance from walleye to other excellent sportfish as yellow perch and whitefish would help balance the fishing pressure on district lakes.

Improved access to more lakes is another way to redistribute fishing pressure. But this is a two-edged sword. Increased access to tourist lakes can negatively affect fishing quality on those waters. Poor angling would mean a loss of tourist dollars for fishing lodge operators and, ultimately, the local economy.

Habitat damage is the second major challenge to the local fishery. Soil erosion into spawning beds from shoreline development and stream crossings can be a major factor, with water fluctuations caused by hydro dams also interfering with spawning activity.

MNR places a high priority on habitat protection and improvement. It reviews plans for stream crossings and road construction to determine their potential impact on the fishery, and works to improve walleye spawning areas.

In recent years, the Community Fisheries Involvement Programs (CFIP) has played an important role in MNR programs for fish management and habitat improvement. In one project, for example, community volunteers are creating new walleye spawning habitat in Rawcourt Lake.

At this point, you have a good idea of current fishery management and the challenges that lie ahead. Now help us plan for the future.

The table that follows outlines the various options now being considered to manage District fisheries to the year 2000. This is the core of the plan, and where your input is most needed.

We hope you will read the material carefully, then give us your comments. Your ideas will be considered in the writing of the draft fisheries management plan. Once the plan is written, public comments will again be invited.



Looking in tomorrow



Fisheries management probably isn't on your mind much when you're angling for walleye or northern pike.

You're baiting your hook, enjoying the day — maybe even looking forward to a great fish fry. At those times, excellent fishing is just a way to relax and enjoy one of the area's great forms of outdoor recreation.

But fishing can be more than a sport. In other situations, a strong fishery may support business. For baitfish operators and tourist outfitters, fishing is a livelihood — and a way to contribute to the local economy.

No matter what your interest in fishing, you should know that continued good angling in Cochrane District depends on thoughtful fisheries management.

Without proper planning, serious problems can develop with the resource. Overfishing has already caused angling to suffer on some local waters, while others go underused.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is developing a Fisheries Management Plan to deal with the issues in the Cochrane District that concern all resource users. The plan will set out targets and strategies to oversee local fisheries management to the year 2000.

But we need your help. Your comments and ideas are needed to create a plan that reflects the special needs and characteristics of Cochrane District. As a resource user, you hold the key to an effective, workable, fisheries plan.

This tabloid is your chance to affect the future of the Cochrane District fisheries. It sets out our concerns for the fishery and the options being considered for future management programs.

Continued on next page



Stocking is one method used to increase angling opportunities in the Cochrane area.



Fisheries studies will be used to monitor angling pressure and gather information on fish populations



Conservation officers play an important role in fisheries management by explaining new programs to anglers as well as by enforcing present regulations.



Fish habitat can be affected by improper stream crossings.

Looking to tomorrow

Continued from front page
We'd like you to read the material on these pages. Then tell us what you think by filling out the attached questionnaire
Your comments will be considered in the writing of the draft fisheries

management plan. Once a draft plan is written, there will be additional opportunities for public input before a final version is prepared. Remember, your contribution to the planning process is critical. We welcome your ideas!

Dealing with the problems

OVERFISHING

Problem
— over-harvest of walleye in certain lakes

Options
— implement new regulations such as season manipulation, slot limits, creel limits and sanctuaries
— create new opportunities through adult walleye transfers
— promote fishing for under-harvested species
— create or rehabilitate walleye spawning habitat
— increase fishing opportunities for other preferred species (trout)
— reduce illegal harvest of walleye through enforcement activities and public education
— continue to monitor and assess status of selected walleye lakes

Problem
— location and type of access roads

Options
— align new access roads taking into consideration the opportunity for increased angling opportunities as well as the need to maintain the remote nature of selected lakes
— maintain current access to local lakes
— upgrade access to selected lakes

HABITAT DEGRADATION:

Problem
— inadequate management of some sites during resource development

Options
— ensure adequate input into resources management plans and river crossing
— ensure greater compliance with standards, guidelines and legislation
— increase knowledge of fisheries habitat through inventories and surveys
— rehabilitate selected sites when feasible

Problem
— water level fluctuation

Options
— review proposals for new water control structures to ensure minimal disturbance to habitat and fish stocks
— discuss methods of altering existing draw-downs to reduce their impacts on the fisheries resource

USER PERCEPTIONS

Problem
— lack of awareness and appreciation of fisheries management

Options
— promote active participation in public involvement programs
— conduct fisheries seminars to increase public knowledge and awareness
— increase educational activities in schools
— clarify misconceptions in the stocking and walleye culture programs



TABLE
ANNUAL SPORT FISH
PREDUCTION AND HARVEST
COCHRANE
(Surveyed and Partially Surveye Waters)

Species	Production (kg)	Current Harvest (kg)	Projected Harvest the year 2000 (kg)
Walleye	106,500	28,700	32,100
Northern Pike	86,600	19,300	21,600
Yellow Perch	44,500	1,700	2,000
Lake Whitefish	69,600	300	400
Lake Sturgeon	600	500	600
Smallmouth Bass	100	60	100
Brook Trout	1,100	1,100	1,300
Lake Trout	2,000	1,200	1,300
Rainbow Trout	200	200	300
Splake	200	60	200
TOTAL	311,400	53,120	59,900

Test your knowledge on Cochrane District fishery

How much do you know about the district's fisheries? Here's a chance to test your knowledge.

What Portion Of Cochrane District is Water?

The district stretches over 30,700 square kilometres, 2,100 square kilometres, or about seven percent is covered by water.

Which Is The Largest Local Lake?

Lake Abitibi is the fifth largest inland lake in Ontario and is much larger than other district lakes. In fact, most local lakes are quite small, averaging under 10 hectares in size.

Can Most Area Waters Be Described As Warmwater, Coolwater, or Coldwater Bodies?

Coolwater lakes and rivers comprise 97 percent of the district's total water area, with cold waters making up the remaining 3 percent. There are no warmwater bodies in the district.



What does it mean?

As of January 1, 1987, residents of Ontario between the ages of 18 and 64 are required to purchase a resident sport fishing licence if they wish to fish in the province. A \$10.00 annual licence or \$5.00 4-day licence is available. Exemptions to this requirement were given to senior citizens, disabled persons and to natives angling on their reserves or treaty area.

Funds generated from the sale of fishing licences are targeted for return to fisheries management projects. It is estimated that provincially, approximately 8 million dollars will be raised from licence sales annually. Cochrane District has received funding in 1987-88 and is anticipating further monies in the 1988-89 fiscal year. This money is in addition to our regular program funding and will be used to implement projects identified in the fisheries management plan.

Licence spawns creation of new fisheries projects

The Resident Sport Fishing Licence program is making waves in District fisheries.

Seven fisheries improvement projects are already approved or underway in Cochrane District with funds generated by licence revenues. The projects include studies of walleye populations, walleye transfers, a creel census, and spawning habitat improvement programs.

The licence program was introduced last January. It requires Ontario residents aged 18 to 64 to purchase a fishing licence if they wish to fish in provincial waters.

It is anticipated that an estimated \$8 million will be generated through the program each year to help existing fisheries funding.



With angling pressure expected to increase over the next 12 years, practising good fisheries management will become even more important.

Name The Main Sportfish Found In Coolwater Lakes and Rivers and in Coldwaters?

Walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, common white suckers and lake whitefish are most commonly found in coolwater lakes and rivers, while brook trout (either stocked or naturally producing), lake trout, rainbows and splake are found in district cold water.

Is Sportfishing on the Increase in Cochrane District?

Yes. It's estimated that sportfishing will increase by about 12 percent by the year 2000. Most district fishing is done by Ontario residents with non-residents accounting for 20 percent of the fishing pressure on local waters.

Can Annual Fish Production Keep Up With Anglers Demand in the District?

Generally there are enough fish to keep up with demand. Last year, for

example, 311,400 kilograms of sportfish were produced in district waters, while only an estimated 55,000 kilograms were caught and kept.

There is a problem, though. Overfishing does occur because fishing pressure isn't evenly distributed among all lakes and species (see Table 1).

The problem usually occurs on the district's more easily-accessed waters. This results in reduced angler catch on the most popular lakes and rivers.

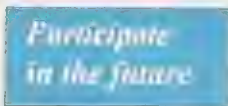
What's worse, it takes up to 10 years for a species population to recover once fishing pressure is eliminated or controlled.

Does Commercial Fishing Put Much Extra Pressure on the Fishery?

The baitfish industry is the only form of commercial fishing in the district. The current annual harvest is about 19,200 dozen fish. Supply should easily meet demand up to the year 2000.



Developments such as hydro dams can have a serious impact on fish populations. Fish habitat and migration requirements must therefore be considered in dam design and construction.



How do you make your comments?

Once you have read this tabloid, consider how closely the material reflects your concerns and your understanding of fishing requirements in Cochrane District.

After completing the attached questionnaire, submit it to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Cochrane District Office within four weeks. Include your name and address to ensure that you receive both a copy of the draft management plan and invitations to future open houses.

The biologist at the MNR District Office will be happy to discuss any questions or comments you may have on material in this tabloid.

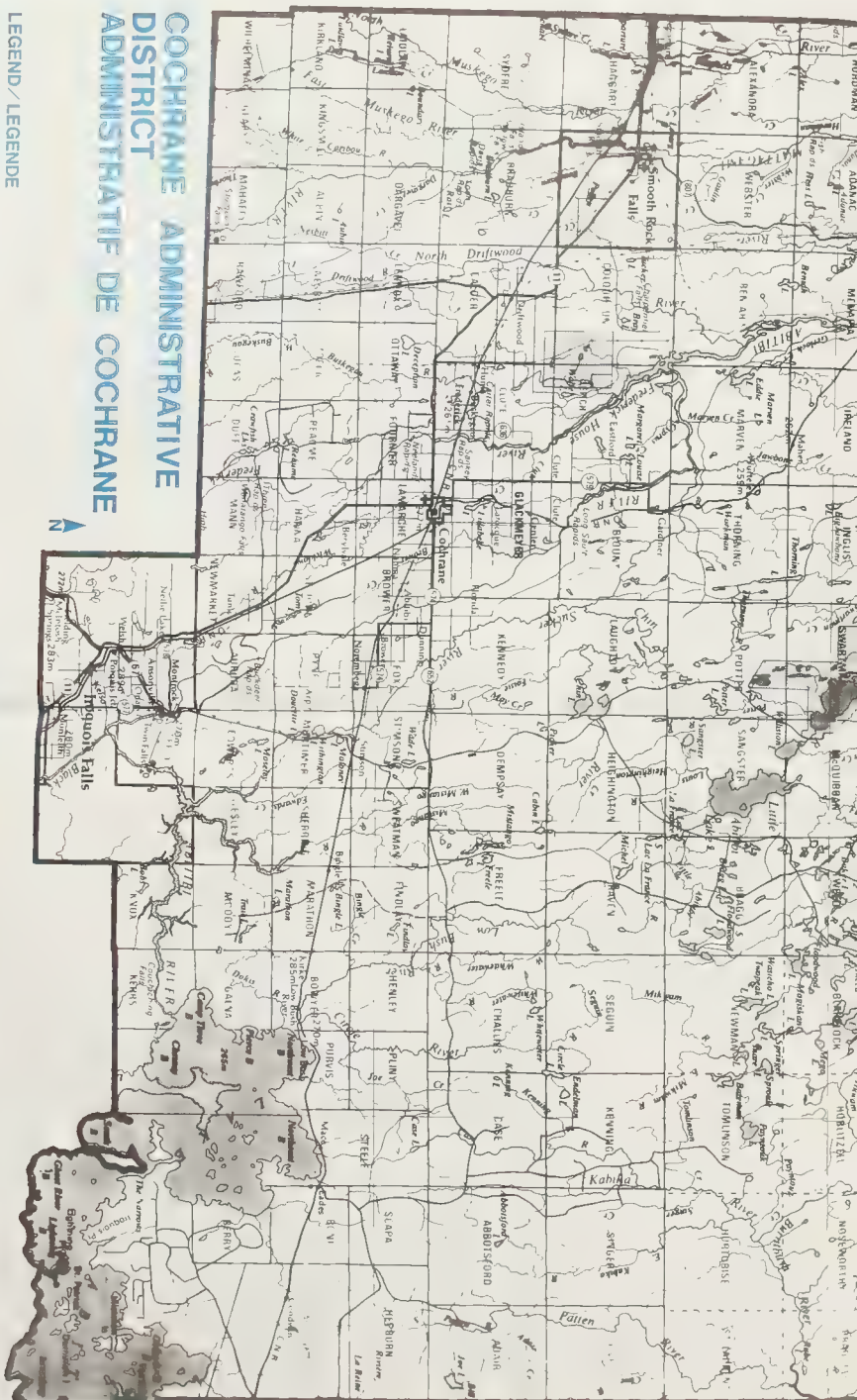
COCHRANE ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIF DE COCHRANE

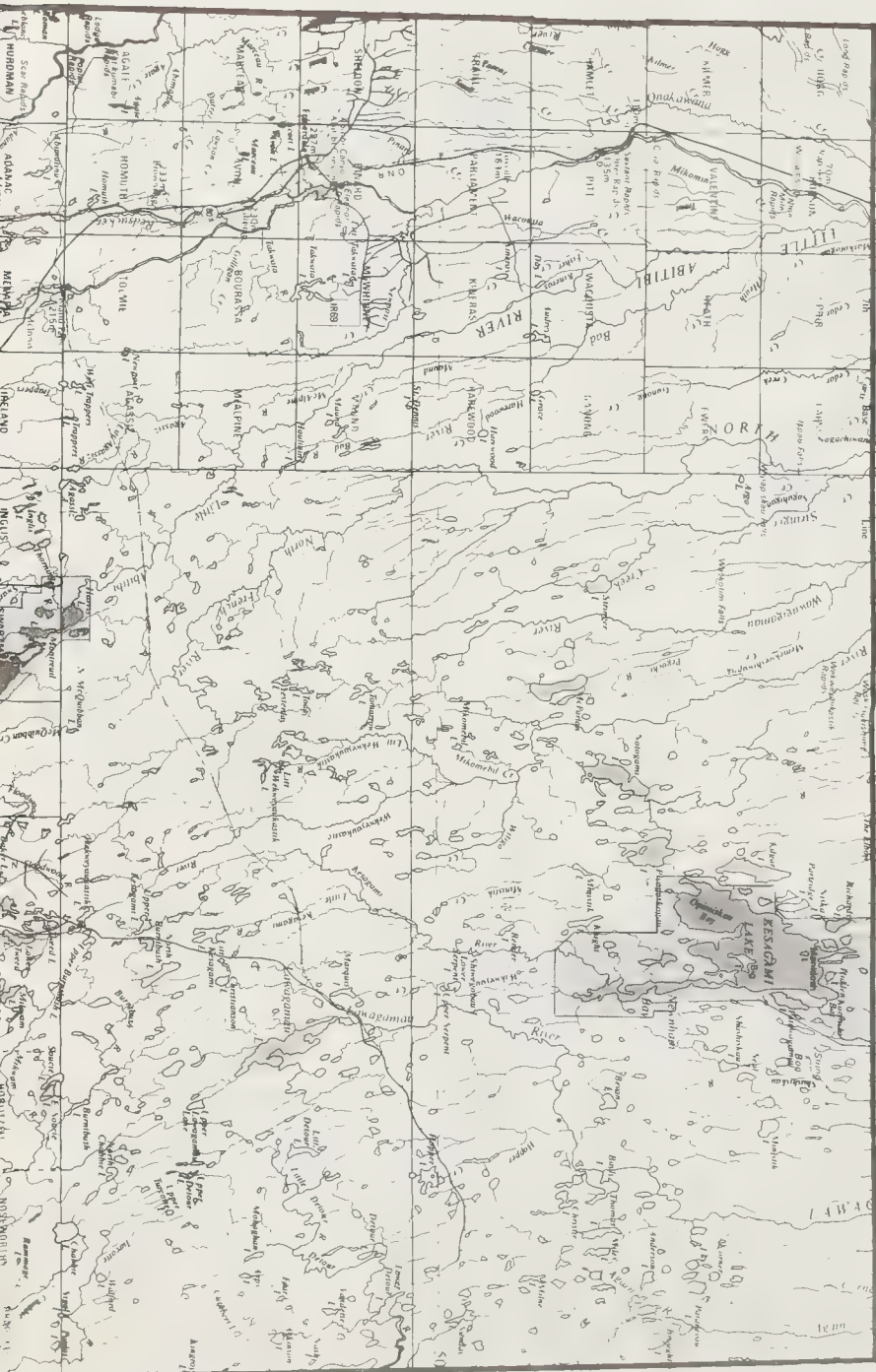
LEGEND / LEGENDE

- Dams / Barrages
- Access points / Point d'accès
- Provincial Parks / Parcs provinciaux

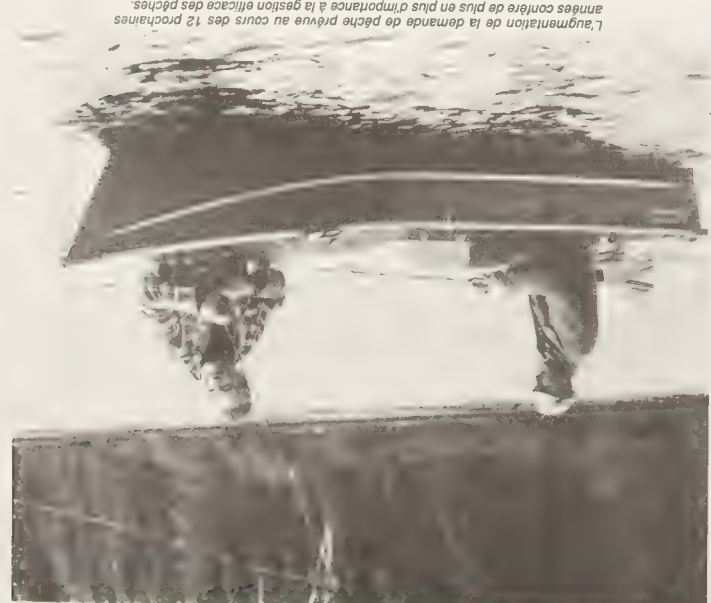


Scale / Échelle





Évaluez vos connaissances sur les pêches du district



Évaluez vos connaissances sur les pêches du district de Cochrane

Quelle proportion des étendues d'eau représentent-elles dans le district de Cochrane?

Le district a une superficie de 30 700 km², les étendues d'eau occupent 2 100 km², soit environ 7 pour cent de la superficie.

Quel lac est le plus grand de la région?

Le lac Abitibi est le cinquième lac d'importance en Ontario, c'est également le plus vaste du district. En fait, la plupart des lacs du district occupent moins de 10 hectares.

La plupart des étendues d'eau sont-elles temporées, fraîches ou froides?

Les lacs et les rivières d'eau fraîche représentent 97 pour 100 des étendues d'eau du district; les autres étendues d'eau froide. Il n'y a aucune étendue d'eau tempérée dans le district.

Quelles espèces de poisson gibier retrouvent-on dans les lacs et rivières d'eau fraîche? Dans les eaux froides?

On trouve la doré, le brochet, la perchaude, le meunier noir et le corégone dans les lacs et les rivières d'eau fraîche. Pour leur part, les eaux froides du district abritent de l'omble de fontaine (à l'état naturel) ou grâce à l'empoissonnement, du touladi, de la truite arc-en-ciel et de la truite moulée.

La pêche sportive est-elle à la hausse dans le district de Cochrane?

Il y a généralement suffisamment de poisson pour répondre à la demande. Ainsi, l'an dernier, les eaux du district ont produit 311,400 kg de poisson gibier, dont environ 55,000 kg ont été pêchés et conservés.

Toulois, la situation n'est pas la même au poisson d'appât est la seule pêche commerciale pratiquée dans le district. La récolte annuelle est d'environ 19,000 douzaines de poissons. L'approvisionnement devrait suffire à la demande jusqu'en l'an 2000.

Comment nous faire part de vos observations?

Lisez le présent document et déterminez si les renseignements qu'il contient correspondent à vos connaissances et préoccupations sur les pêches du district de Cochrane. Envoyez la questionnaire à l'adresse ci-dessous.

Les revenus annuels du programme de pêche sont de 8 millions \$ et les services utilisés pour financer les pêches.

Les aménagements comme les parages hydro-électriques peuvent avoir un effet délimitant sur les populations de poissons. La conception et la construction de barrages doivent tenir compte des besoins d'habitat et de la migration des poissons.

Les revenus annuels du programme de pêche sont de 8 millions \$ et les services utilisés pour financer les pêches.

Les revenus annuels du programme de pêche sont de 8 millions \$ et les services utilisés pour financer les pêches.

Les revenus annuels du programme de pêche sont de 8 millions \$ et les services utilisés pour financer les pêches.

Les revenus annuels du programme de pêche sont de 8 millions \$ et les services utilisés pour financer les pêches.

Les revenus annuels du programme de pêche sont de 8 millions \$ et les services utilisés pour financer les pêches.

Les revenus annuels du programme de pêche sont de 8 millions \$ et les services utilisés pour financer les pêches.

Les revenus annuels du programme de pêche sont de 8 millions \$ et les services utilisés pour financer les pêches.

Les revenus annuels du programme de pêche sont de 8 millions \$ et les services utilisés pour financer les pêches.

Les revenus annuels du programme de pêche sont de 8 millions \$ et les services utilisés pour financer les pêches.

Les revenus annuels du programme de pêche sont de 8 millions \$ et les services utilisés pour financer les pêches.

Les revenus annuels du programme de pêche sont de 8 millions \$ et les services utilisés pour financer les pêches.

pages qui suivent et de nous faire part de vos observations en remplissant le questionnaire ci-joint.

Vos remarques seront prises en considération lors de l'élaboration du Plan de gestion des pêches provisoire. Une fois le Plan provisoire terminé, le public sera de nouveau invité à émettre ses observations avant la rédaction du Plan final. N'oubliez pas que votre participation au processus de planification est essentielle. C'est avec plaisir que nous accepterions vos idées!

Quelques solutions

Suite de la première page

ressources, vous jouez un rôle clé dans l'élaboration d'un Plan de gestion des pêches à la fois efficace et valable.

Le présent laboird vous donne l'occasion d'influer sur l'avenir des pêches du district de Cochrane. Il présente les problèmes que posent les pêches et énumère les solutions faisant l'objet d'une étude en vue de l'élaboration d'un Plan de gestion.

Nous vous demandons de lire les

Options

— recueillir suffisamment de données lors de l'élaboration des plans de gestion des ressources et de la planification de ports

— veiller au respect des normes, directives et lois

— recueillir de plus amples renseignements sur l'habitat des poissons au moyen d'inventaires et d'études

— réhabiliter certains emplacements (dans la mesure du possible)

Problème

— fluctuations du niveau d'eau

Options

— revoir les propositions prévoyant de nouvelles structures contrôlant le niveau d'eau afin de réduire au minimum les perturbations de l'habitat et des populations de poissons

— étudier les méthodes permettant d'éliminer les fluctuations du niveau d'eau afin de réduire l'incidence qu'elles peuvent avoir sur les pêches

PÊCHE EXCESSIVE:

Problème

— pêche excessive du doré dans certains lacs

Options

— mettre en application de nouveaux règlements régissant les variations saisonnières, les toucheries de réserves

— accroître les possibilités de pêche en transférant des dorés adultes sous-exploités

— créer et réhabiliter les frayères du doré

— accroître les possibilités de pêche pour les autres espèces populaires (truite)

— réduire la récolte illégale du doré par la mise en application de la loi et la sensibilisation du public

— poursuivre la surveillance et l'évaluation de la condition du doré dans certains lacs.

Problème

— emplacement et type de routes d'accès

Options

— prévoir l'emplacement de nouvelles routes d'accès tout en songeant à accroître les activités de pêche et en tenant compte de la nécessité de préserver le caractère isolé de certains lacs

— préserver l'accès actuel aux lacs locaux

— améliorer l'accès à certains lacs

APPAUVRISSEMENT DE L'HABITAT:

Problème

— gestion inadéquate de certains emplacements lors de l'exploitation des ressources

TABEAU

PRODUCTION ET RÉCOLTE ANNUELLES

DE POISSON GIBIER

DISTRICT DE COCHRANE

(Eaux ayant fait l'objet d'une étude partielle ou totale)

Espèces	Production (kg)	Récolte actuelle (kg)	Récolte prévue en l'an 2000(kg)
Doré	106,500	28,700	32,100
Brochet	86,600	19,300	21,600
Perchaude	44,500	1,700	2,000
Corégone	69,600	300	400
Esturgeon de lac	600	500	600
Achigan à petite bouche	100	60	100
Ombre de fontaine	1,100	1,100	1,300
Touladi	2,000	1,200	1,300
Tuile arc-en-ciel	200	200	300
Tuile moulac	200	60	200
TOTAL	311,400	53,120	59,900



L'empoissonnement est un des moyens utilisés pour augmenter les possibilités de pêche dans le district de Cochrane.



Des études sur les pêches serviront à déterminer la demande de pêche et à recueillir des renseignements sur les populations de poissons.



Les agents de protection de la nature jouent un rôle important dans la gestion des pêches en expliquant les nouveaux programmes aux pêcheurs et en veillant à l'application des règlements.



L'habitat aquatique peut être affecté par les traverses de nuisances (nappe).



Gestion des pêches du District de Cochrane

EBAUCHE

Plan de gestion cherche à améliorer les pêches

L'objectif principal du Plan de gestion des pêches est d'établir des stratégies visant à améliorer les pêches du district de Cochrane. L'aménagement du territoire du district de Cochrane, préparé en 1983, qui porte sur l'interaction entre les différentes ressources du district et le Plan est basé sur les Directives d'aménagement du territoire du district de Cochrane.

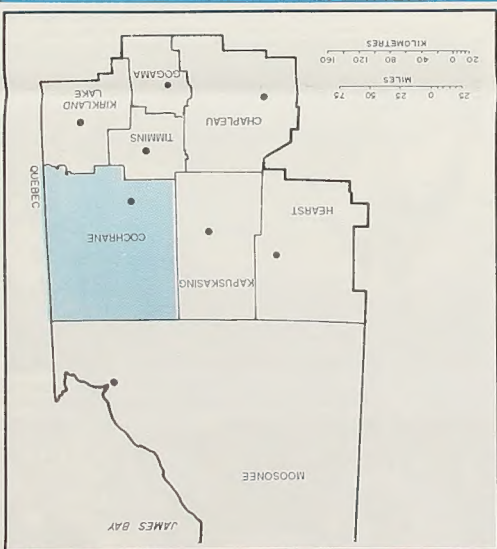
Le Plan est basé sur les Directives d'aménagement du territoire du district de Cochrane, préparé en 1983, qui porte sur l'interaction entre les différentes ressources du district et le Plan est basé sur les Directives d'aménagement du territoire du district de Cochrane.

Le Plan est basé sur les Directives d'aménagement du territoire du district de Cochrane, préparé en 1983, qui porte sur l'interaction entre les différentes ressources du district et le Plan est basé sur les Directives d'aménagement du territoire du district de Cochrane.

Le présent document vous donne un aperçu des activités de gestion des pêches et des défis qu'il faudra relever. Nous vous demandons maintenant de nous aider à planifier la gestion des pêches pour le futur.

Le tableau sur cette page précise les diverses options retenues pour la gestion des pêches jusqu'en l'an 2000. Ces options constituent la partie la plus importante du Plan, c'est-à-dire les solutions que nous proposons pour améliorer les pêches.

Etudiez attentivement ce qui suit et faites-nous part de vos observations. Nous en tiendrons compte lors de l'élaboration du Plan de gestion des pêches. Une fois ce Plan terminé, vous serez de nouveau invités à nous faire part de vos commentaires.



Un oeil vers l'avenir

Vous ne pensez probablement guère à la gestion des pêches lorsque vous pêchez le doré ou le brochet. Vous ne pensez probablement pas que la gestion des pêches soit importante. Pourtant, la gestion des pêches est une activité essentielle pour assurer la pérennité de nos ressources halieutiques. La pêche est un sport, mais pour certains, c'est également une entreprise. Pour les commerçants de poissons d'appât et les pourvoyeurs touristiques, la pêche est un gagne-pain qui stimule l'économie locale.

Quelle que soit le type de pêche à laquelle vous vous adonnez, vous savez que la qualité de la pêche a une importance capitale. La pêche dépend de saines pratiques de gestion.

Sans une planification convenable, de graves problèmes peuvent survenir. La pêche excessive nuit à la santé des pêches. Les ressources halieutiques sont épuisées, les poissons deviennent plus rares, et les coûts de gestion augmentent.

Le ministère des Richesses naturelles élabore un Plan de gestion des pêches afin de trouver des réponses aux questions qui préoccupent les pêcheurs et les gestionnaires.

Nous avons besoin de vos commentaires et de vos idées afin d'élaborer un plan qui réponde aux besoins particuliers du district de Cochrane. En tant qu'usagers des



La planification de la gestion des pêches nous permet de maintenir et d'améliorer les pêches pour l'avenir.

Le Plan accordé une très grande importance à la protection et à l'amélioration des pêches. Les dernières années, le Programme de participation communautaire a permis de recueillir les avis des pêcheurs et de les intégrer dans la planification.

Le Plan accordé une très grande importance à la protection et à l'amélioration des pêches. Les dernières années, le Programme de participation communautaire a permis de recueillir les avis des pêcheurs et de les intégrer dans la planification.

Le Plan accordé une très grande importance à la protection et à l'amélioration des pêches. Les dernières années, le Programme de participation communautaire a permis de recueillir les avis des pêcheurs et de les intégrer dans la planification.



3 1761 11547585 7